APPENDIX A

1 (Previously Presented). A device for recognizing a locked condition of a seat belt buckle, the device comprising:

a sensor that directly interrogates the condition of the seat belt buckle by realizing a change in inductance based upon a position of an inductance-altering activating component without using a magnet.

2 (Original). The device of claim 1, wherein the sensor is arranged by a multi-turn conductor loop.

3 (Original). The device of claim 2, wherein the conductor loop is applied on a printed circuit.

4 (Original). The device of claim 2, wherein the conductor loop is planar.

5 (Previously Presented). The device of claim 1, further comprising:

an evaluation circuit which comprises an oscillator circuit.

6 (Original). The device of claim 5, wherein the oscillator

circuit further comprises:

a differentiating circuit for the recognition of oscillation.

7 (Original). The device of claim 5, wherein the oscillator circuit is evaluated by a micro-controller.

8 (Original). The device of claim 1, further comprising:

a leaf spring manufactured from a material selected from the group consisting of diamagnetic, paramagnetic and ferromagnetic.

9 (Original). The device of claim 1, wherein the sensor is part of a voltage transmission circuit.

10 (Original). The device of claim 1, further comprising:

a switching controller for the recognition of a voltage.

11 (Previously Presented). A seat belt buckle comprising:

a seat belt buckle carrier;

a seat belt buckle tongue;

an ejector;

a locking component; and

a device for recognizing a locked condition of the seat belt buckle comprising a sensor that directly interrogates the condition of the seat belt buckle by realizing a change in inductance based upon a position of an inductance-altering activating component without using a magnet.

12 (Original). The seat belt buckle of claim 11, wherein the seat belt buckle tongue is manufactured from a material selected from the group consisting of diamagnetic, paramagnetic and ferromagnetic.

13 (Previously Presented). A device for recognizing a locked condition of a safety belt buckle, the device comprising:

a sensor that directly interrogates the condition of the safety belt buckle by realizing a change in a coupling factor based upon a position of a coupling factor-altering activating component without using a magnet.

14 (Original). A device according to claim 13, wherein the sensor is arranged by two multi-turn conductor loops.

15 (Original). A device according to claim 14, wherein the multi-turn conductor loops are arranged in a concentric and

bifilar manner.

16 (Original). A device according to claim 14, wherein the conductor loops are applied on a printed circuit.

17 (Original). A device according to claim 16, wherein the conductor loops are planar.

18 (Original). A device according to claim 13, wherein the device comprises a leaf spring manufactured from a material selected from the group diamagnetic, paramagnetic and ferromagnetic.

19 (Original). A device according to claim 13, wherein the sensor is part of a voltage transmission circuit.

20 (Original). A device according to claim 13, further comprising:

a switching controller for the recognition of a voltage.

21 (Previously Presented). A seat belt buckle comprising:

a seat belt buckle carrier;

a seat belt buckle tongue;

an ejector;

a locking component; and

a device for recognizing a locked condition of the seat belt buckle comprising a sensor that directly interrogates the condition of the seat belt buckle by realizing a change in a coupling factor based upon a position of a coupling factor-altering activating component without using a magnet.

22 (Original). The seat belt buckle of claim 21, wherein the seat belt buckle tongue is manufactured from a material selected from the group consisting of diamagnetic, paramagnetic and ferromagnetic.